

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02

A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 DHA-02 OMB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-07

TRSE-00 FBO-02 USSS-00 /087 W
----- 023775

O R 082110Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9846

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

COMNAVBASE GTMO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: CONTINUED FIGHTING IN KINGSTON GHETTA

REFS: (A) KINGSTON 0096; (B) KINGSTON 0099;
(C) KINGSTON 0098

1. DESPITE THE IMPOSITION OF A CURFEW IN THE SOUTH WESTERN
SECTION OF THE CITY LAST NIGHT, VIOLENCE CONTINUED
VIRTUALLY UNCHECKED IN THE "CONCRETE JUNGLE". DURING
24 HOURS THREE POLICEMEN WERE KILLED AND FOUR OTHERS
WOUNDED, INCLUDING THE TWO SHOT AT THE CONSULATE (REF B).
CIVILIAN CASUALTY FIGURES ARE HARD TO COME BY BUT ARE
ESTIMATED TO BE AT LEAST 10 KILLED AND ANOTHER 100
WOUNDED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK. PHYSICAL DAMAGE,
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PRIMARILY BY FIRE-BOMBING, IS ESTIMATED AT \$1.25 MILLION

BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE 3 MAJOR FIRES IN THE PAST 24 HOURS.

2. IT TOOK A PERSONAL VISIT FROM PM MANLEY AND SECURITY MINISTER MUNN TO QUELL THE PROTEST OF THE MOBILE POLICE RESERVE AT HARMON BARRACKS LAST NIGHT (REF C). THE MEN WERE COMPLAINING OF HAVING "THEIR HANDS TIED" AND HAVING TO DO "STATIC DUTY" (GUARD DUTY AT BUILDINGS). ALL THREE POLICEMEN KILLED YESTERDAY WERE DOING STATIC DUTY. THE PM CALMED THE MEN AND GOT THEM BACK ON THE JOB BY PROMISING THE FULL SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT, AN END TO STATIC DUTY, AND MORE EQUIPMENT.

3. THE 3RD BATTALION (RESERVE) OF THE JDF HAS BEEN CALLED UP. ONE ELEMENT HAS BEEN DETAILED TO THE IMF CONFERENCE SITE TO REINFORCE THE 1ST BATTALION WHICH IS ALREADY DEPLOYED THERE, WHILE OTHERS ARE ASSISTING THE POLICE IN CORDONING OFF THE RIOT AREA. HOUSE SEARCHES HAVE BEGUN IN THE RIOT AREA BUT HAVE TURNED UP LITTLE MORE THAN STOLEN GOODS AND GANJA SO FAR.

4. ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 9 AT THE IMF CONFERENCE TO PROTEST SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN CALLED OFF BY ITS ORGANIZERS, THE PNP YOUTH AND THE WORKERS LIBERATION LEAGUE. THE CANCELLATION IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IN THE DIRECT RESPONSE TO AN ORDER FROM THE PM.

5. COMMENT: SITUATION STILL UNSETTLED BUT TONIGHT WILL PROVIDE A GOOD INDICATION OF WHETHER GOJ IS GAINING FIRM CONTROL AS CLAIMED BY PM MANLEY AND MINISTER OF SECURITY MUNN.

GERARD

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Message Attributes

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